

Message Text

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BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UK, XF

SUBJECT: RABIN'S MEETING WITH WILSON AND CALLAGHAN
JUNE 28.

1. FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD CRAIG PROVIDED US FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF MAIN EXCHANGES AT JUNE 28 MEETING OF PM WILSON AND FONSEC CALLAGHAN WITH ISRAELI PM RABIN. HE ASKED IT BE HELD CLOSELY, EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING PARTICULARLY SURPRISING SAID.

2. RABIN SAID HE THOUGHT THE ARABS REALIZE THAT US INTERVENTION HAD SAVED THEM FROM ANOTHER MILITARY DISASTER IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. HE SAID THE NEXT PHASE IN PEACE MAKING PROCESS WOULD BE WITH EGYPT, WHICH IS KEY TO WHOLE SITUATION. HE IS LOOKING FOR A WAY IN WHICH EGYPT COULD DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACE WITHOUT ISRAEL SURRENDERING ANY MORE TERRITORY. HE EXPLAINED THIS IN TERMS

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OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON NON-BELLIGERENCY. HE SAID THE

EFFORT WOULD BEGIN IN JULY OR AUGUST.

3. CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SADAT WOULD AGREE TO NON-BELLIGERENCY UNLESS IT WERE LINKED SPECIFICALLY TO WITHDRAWAL FROM EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. CALLAGHAN ALSO THOUGHT SADAT WOULD INSIST ON SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE PALESTINIANS.

4. RABIN REPLIED HE DOUBTED THAT SADAT CARES ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS AS MUCH AS RECOVERING HIS TERRITORY. HE THOUGHT CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS BY EGYPT MAY BE TACTICAL. RABIN ADMITTED THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS WAS VERY IMPORTANT. ANY SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK, HOWEVER, WOULD REPRESENT A POLITICAL TIME BOMB INVITING SOVIET INTERVENTION. IT WOULD INVOLVE THE EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION OF EITHER ISRAEL OR JORDAN OR BOTH. HE SAID ISRAEL COULD NOT ACCEPT CONDITIONS WHICH CONCERN THIRD PARTIES (I.E., PALESTINIANS) IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT.

5. WHEN BRITISH EXPRESSED THE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE UNDERMINING SADAT AND ANY SUCCESSOR MIGHT BE WORSE FOR PEACE PROSPECTS, RABIN REPLIED THAT ISRAEL WILL MAKE NO SACRIFICES TO PRESERVE SADAT. HE SAID IF SADAT DECIDED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL, ISRAEL WOULD DECIDE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH EGYPT.

6. RABIN ADDED THAT PALESTINIAN ISSUE IS BEING USED BY THE SOVIETS AND BY SOME ARABS TO PREVENT THE FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. WILSON REMARKED THAT SYRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS APPEARED CLOSER FOLLOWING THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. RABIN SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS HOW THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT. THE POSITION OF EGYPT IS CRUCIAL.

7. CRAIG SAID THE PROBLEM OF THE LEBANESE FRONTIER WAS NOT BROUGHT UP BY EITHER SIDE, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS IN THE BRIEF PREPARED FOR WILSON BY THE FCO. CRAIG DID NOT KNOW WHAT FURTHER CONVERSATIONS MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND, DURING THE MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
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AT CHEQUERS.

8. AS ADDRESSEES PROBABLY ARE AWARE RABIN WAS QUOTED EXTENSIVELY IN THE WORLD PRESS AS HAVING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE PRESENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAELI CONCERNS AND THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN BRITISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

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